

THE ROUNDSCALE SPEARFISH

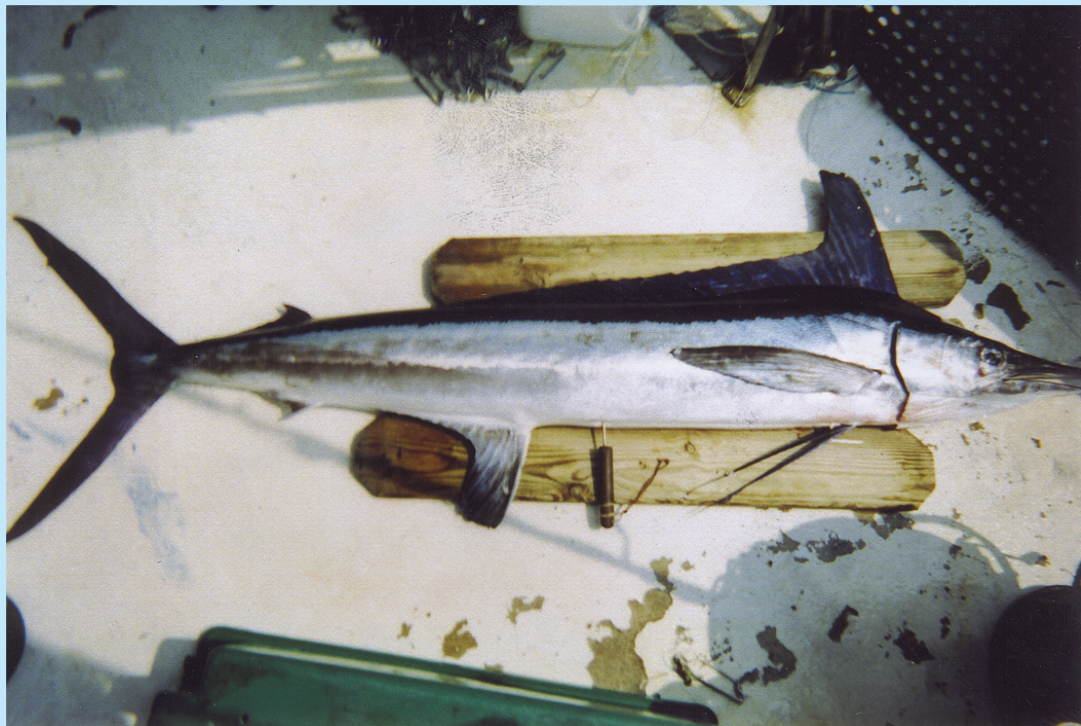
Tetrapturus Georgii

A new billfish from Northwestern Atlantic discovered and studied by the Pelagic Observer Program (POP) at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Miami, Florida, USA

The Tetrapturus species seen in the swordfish longline fishery



Longbill Spearfish
T. Peluegeri



Roundscale Spearfish
T. Georgii



White Marlin
T. Albidus

The vital clue for the Observer in the field: Anal opening not in position described in training & field guides.



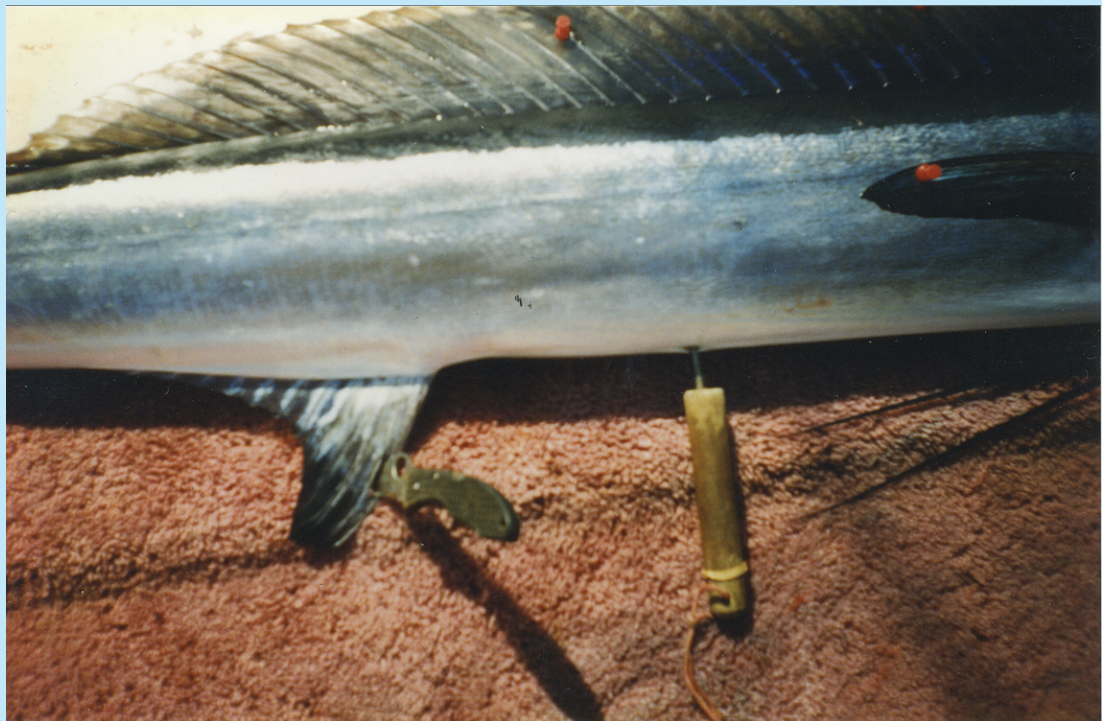
White Marlin

Roundscale Spearfish

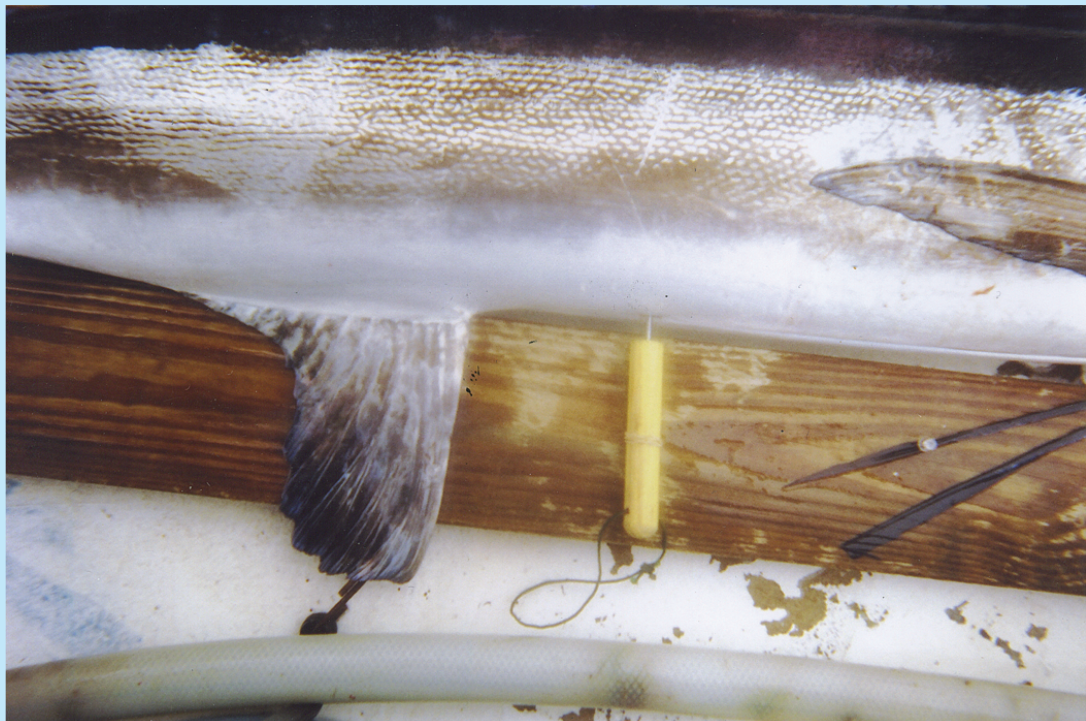


Sampling Protocol

1. Measure & photograph the distance between anal opening and first anal fin (AFA) and the height of the first anal fin (AFH) for all Tetrapturus encountered.



Longbill Spearfish

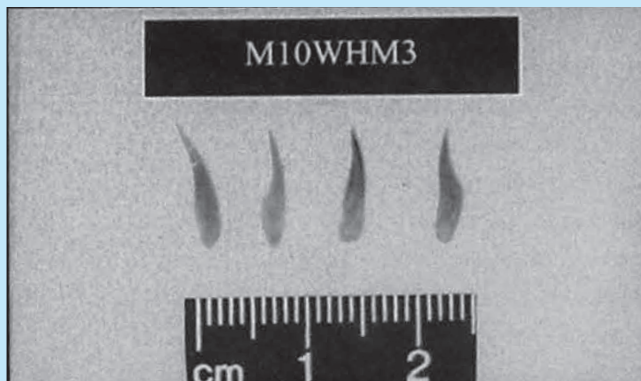
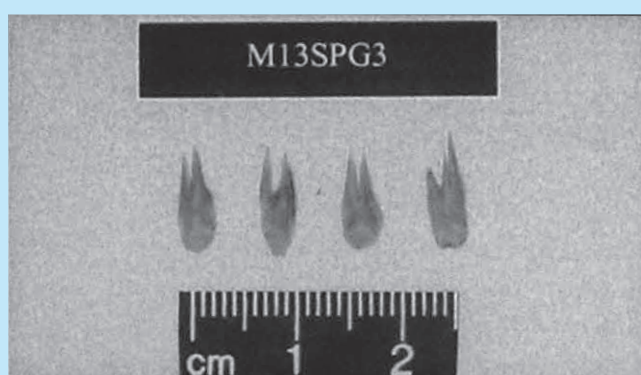
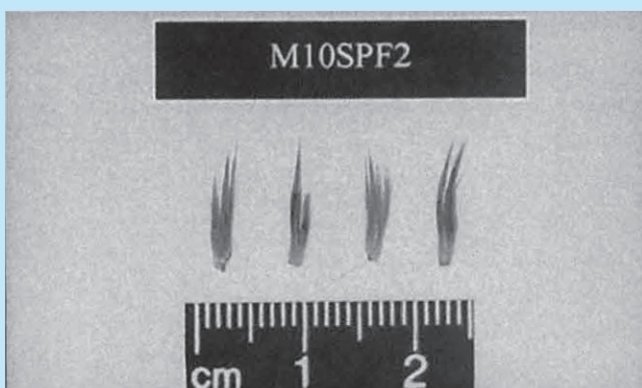
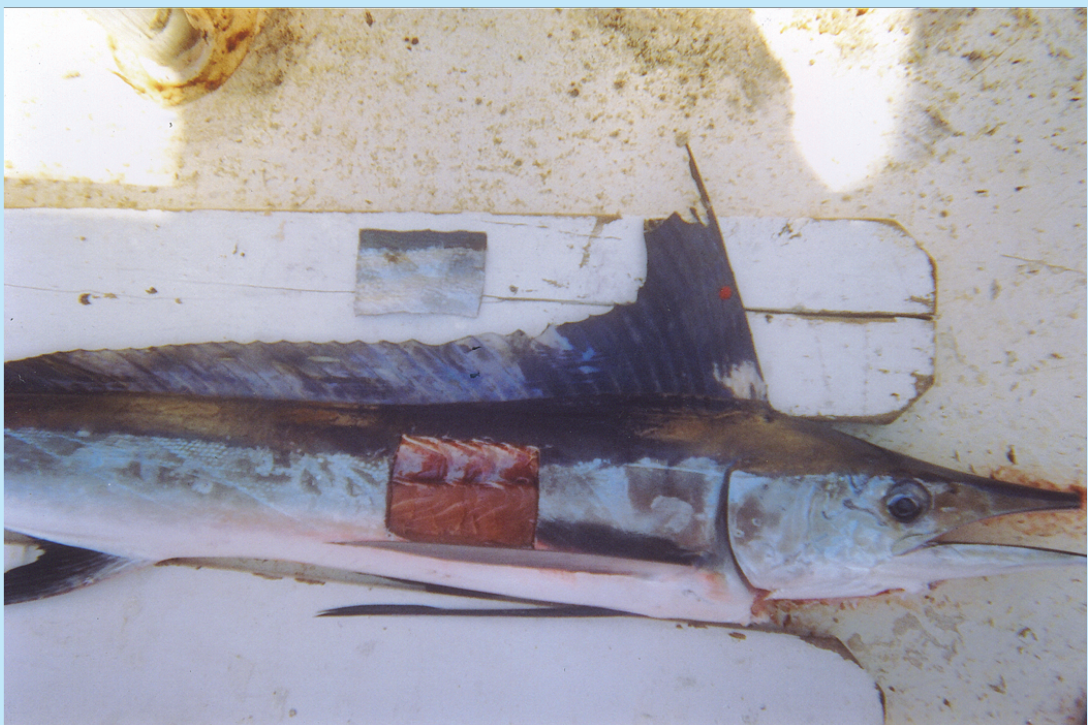


Roundscale Spearfish



White Marlin

2. Collect a skin patch for genetic material and identification of scales.



Recent Developments

- * Publications: Validity, identification and distribution of the Roundscale spearfish, *Tetrapturus georgii* (Teleostei: Istiophoridae): morphological and molecular evidence Shivji et. al. Roundscale spearfish *Tetrapturus georgii* (Lowe, 1840); morphology; distribution and relative abundance in the western North Atlantic. Beerkircher et. al. (in press)
- * Neotype sent for collection by the Smithsonian Institute
- * Sportfishing community made aware of the Roundscale spearfish as other biologists (Collette and Graves) document catch at sportfishing tournaments
- * Fisheries managers begin to evaluate White Marlin data in light of the common confusion between White Marlin and Roundscale Spearfish



FIRST PHOTO OF A LIVE ROUNDSCALE